United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

Issue: 08-24 Released: January 7, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ag Census Results February 4, 2009
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production
- Milk Production
- U.S. Potato Stocks
- U.S. Fall Potato Production
- Red Meat Production
- Hog & Pig Production
- U.S. Wheat Sector

Farmers To See Return On Investment With 2007 Census Of Agriculture

The 2007 Census of Agriculture results will be released February 4 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The Census, which is conducted every five years, provides facts and figures on virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture, including number and types of farm operations, the economic aspects of farm production and the demographics of U.S. farm operators. The Census charts trends in agriculture over time and provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive data for every county in the nation.

For farmers and ranchers, Census data can be a valuable tool to help them make informed decisions about the future of their operations. In addition, the information is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities, including government agencies, community planners, agribusinesses, lenders, trade associations and many others.

Census results will be available online and in various publications to be issued by NASS. For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

December 1 U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2008. The inventory was 6 percent below December 1, 2007 and 5 percent below December 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.02 million, 5 percent below 2007 but 7 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.95 million head. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 565,000, 600-699 pounds were 630,000, 700-799 pounds were 450,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 370,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.58 million, 9 percent below 2007 and 12 percent below 2006. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during November, 18 percent above 2007 and 19 percent below 2006.

November U.S. Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.51 billion during November 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.47 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 970 million were broiler-type and 71 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2008 averaged 339 million, down 2 percent from last year. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,217 eggs, up 1 percent from November 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2008 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 52.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.03 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2008, averaged 74.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from December 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during November 2008 totaled 36.6 million, up 1 percent from November 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.8 million on December 1, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 317 thousand during November 2008, up 13 percent from November 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during November 2008 totaled 706 million, down 7 percent from November 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 629 million on December 1, 2008, down 7 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.22 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during November 2008, down 5 percent from November 2007.

November U.S. Milk Production up 1.4 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from November 2007. October revised production at 14.4 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from October 2007. The October revision represented an increase of 16 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,657 pounds for November, 3 pounds above November 2007.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 99,000 head more than November 2007, and 6,000 head more than October 2008.

U.S. Potato Stocks Down 9 Percent From December 2007

The 13 major potato States held 242 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2008, down 9 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below December 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 66 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below December 1, 2007.

Montana stocks totaled 3.50 million cwt on December 1, 2008, no change from a year ago.

Potato disappearance, at 123 million cwt, was 6 percent below December 1, 2007 and down 5 percent from December 1, 2006. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 13.0 million cwt, was down 8 percent from the same date in 2007 and down 2 percent from 2006.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 71.8 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from the same period last year and down 3 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 10.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 26 percent below the same period in 2006.

Fall Potatoes Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, December 1, 2007-2008 1/

State	2007 Crop			2008 Crop		
	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2007	Percent of Production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2008	Percent of Production
	1,000 cwt		pct	1,000 cwt		pct
CA	3,792	2,000	53	3,939	1,900	48
CO	20,981	15,200	72	21,338	16,400	77
ID	130,010	92,000	71	114,805	83,000	72
ME	16,815	12,900	77	14,496	10,800	75
MI	14,700	8,800	60	13,600	8,000	59
MN	20,680	13,400	65	20,160	13,000	64
MT	**3,696**	**3,500**	**95**	**3,564**	**3,500**	**98**
NE	8,217	5,300	65	8,299	5,300	64
NY	5,216	2,900	56	5,696	2,600	46
ND	23,660	14,500	61	22,680	14,800	65
OR	20,238	18,000	89	18,387	15,900	86
WA	102,300	59,000	58	93,000	49,500	53
WI	28,160	20,000	71	25,730	17,500	68
13 States	398,465	267,500	67	365,694	242,200	66

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2007 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

2008 Fall Potato Production

Production of fall potatoes for 2008 is forecast at 374 million cwt, up slightly from the November forecast but down 8 percent from 2007. Area harvested, at 921,200 acres, is virtually unchanged from the November forecast but 8 percent lower than last year. The average yield, forecast at 406 cwt per acre, is down 1 cwt from November's forecast and down 3 cwt from last year's record high yield.

Idaho's yield is forecast at 378 cwt per acre. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, 8 cwt below the record yield set in 2006. Production in Idaho is down from last year due to a 13 percent decrease in harvested acres. In eastern Washington, potatoes were planted on time, but growth was delayed due to cool, wet weather in the early summer, which also delayed planting in the western part of the State. Potato size was smaller than last year, but quality was good. In Colorado, the growing season was favorable for the San Luis Valley, however, severe hail storms in August damaged plants just before vine killing. As a result, potato sizes were variable. Despite a slow start for the potato crop in Oregon, most growers reported normal to slightly below normal yields. In California, favorable weather conditions resulted in excellent crop quality and yields.

2008 Fall Potato Production (continued from page two)

In North Dakota, crop condition was rated fair to good throughout the growing season. Wisconsin growers reported a smaller crop with good quality potatoes. In Montana, potato production was off 3.6% from last year due to fewer acres seeded in 2008. In Michigan, there were low disease and insect pressures across the State and harvest was mostly complete by early November.

In Maine, a wet growing season resulted in below average potato yields. Dry weather in September promoted excellent harvest and storage conditions. Massachusetts potato farmers battled wet conditions during the season, while growing conditions were excellent in Rhode Island.

Fall Potatoes Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production, 13 Major states, 2007-2008

State	Planted		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
CA	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	480	505	3,792	3,939
CO	59.2	57.0	59.1	56.9	355	375	20,981	21,338
ID	350.0	305.0	349.0	304.0	373	378	130,010	114,805
ME	57.1	56.0	57.0	54.7	295	265	16,815	14,496
MI	42.5	43.0	42.0	42.5	350	320	14,700	13,600
MN	50.0	50.0	47.0	48.0	440	420	20,680	20,160
MT	**11.3**	**10.9**	**11.2**	**10.8**	**330**	**330**	**3,696**	**3,564**
NE	21.0	19.5	19.8	19.3	415	430	8,217	8,299
NY	19.0	18.0	18.3	17.8	285	320	5,216	5,696
ND	97.0	82.0	91.0	81.0	260	280	23,660	22,680
OR	36.5	35.3	36.5	35.3	554	521	20,238	18,387
WA	165.0	155.0	165.0	155.0	620	600	102,300	93,000
WI	64.5	63.5	64.0	62.0	440	415	28,160	25,730
Total	1,10.8	930.4	996.8	921.2	409	406	407,517	374,360

December 1, 2008 Hog Inventory

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2008 was 175,000 head, down 3 percent from a year ago. Breeding stock was up 22 percent to 22,000 head and market hog numbers were down 6 percent at 153,000 head.

There were 36,500 sows farrowed in Montana during the December 2007 through November 2008 season, up 9 percent from a year ago. The number of pigs per litter increased slightly to 10.16 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 371,000 head, a 10 percent increase from last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2008 was 66.7 million head. This was down 2 percent from both December 1, 2007 and September 1, 2008.

Breeding inventory, at 6.08 million head, was down 2 percent from last year but up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.6 million head, was down 2 percent from both last year and last quarter.

The September-November 2008 pig crop, at 28.4 million head, was down 4 percent from 2007 but up 6 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, down 6 percent from 2007 but up 1 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.50 for the September-November 2008 period, compared to 9.28 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.60 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.97 million sows farrow during the December 2008-February 2009 quarter, down 3 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2008 but up 2 percent from 2007. Intended farrowings for March-May 2009, at 3.01 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2008 and down 1 percent from 2007.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 43 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 2006-2008

	Montana				United States			
	2006	2007	2008	'08/'07	2006	2007	2008	'08/'07
	1,000 Head			Pct	1,000 Head			Pct
All Hogs & Pigs	180	180	175	97	62,490	68,177	66,708	98
Breeding Hogs	18	18	22	122	6,087	6,233	6,081	98
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs	53	55	55	100	20,462	22,545	21,297	94
60-119 lbs	40	40	36	90	13,928	15,173	15,096	99
120-179 lbs	35	36	33	92	11,275	12,658	12,716	100
180 lbs & over	34	31	29	94	10,738	11,569	11,518	100
Total	162	162	153	94	56,402	61,944	60,627	98
Sows farrowed								
Dec-Nov 1/	34.0	33.5	36.5	109	11,629	12,247	12,190	100
Pig Crop								
Dec-Nov 1/	325	337	371	110	105,618	112,874	114,704	102
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec-Nov 1/	9.56	10.06	10.16	101	9.08	9.22	9.41	102
1/ December previous year.								

U.S. Wheat Sector Grows Very Slowly

Economic Research Service provides 10-year projections for the agricultural sector through 2017. The following is a segment from USDA Agricultural Projections to 2017. The entire repot can be found on the web at http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/oce081/.

Overall demand in the U.S. wheat sector grows very slowly through the projection period.

• Domestic demand for wheat reflects a relatively mature market. Food use of wheat is projected to show moderate gains, generally in line with population increases.

• Feed use of wheat, a lower-value use of the crop, rises in the initial years of the projections from the levels of recent years as higher corn prices encourage increases in wheat feeding. As price relationships between wheat and corn stabilize, wheat feeding levels off after 2010/11.

• U.S. wheat exports are steady over the projections period as competition continues from the European Union (EU), Canada, Argentina, Australia, and the Black Sea region. In particular, wheat prices are projected at levels high enough that the EU can export wheat without subsidies, thus permitting higher EU exports. Consequently, the U.S. market share declines through the projections to under 20 percent by 2017/18. Market shares for
Australia, Argentina, the EU, and the Black Sea region increase, while the market share for Canada continues to decline.

• Wheat stocks rebound from low 2007/08 levels as higher prices encourage additional acreage and production. Then in the later years of the projections, stocks decline as wheat acreage falls. (Source: ERS-USDA Agricultural Projections to 2017)

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Grain Stocks
Late Season Pulse Crops

Peggy Stringer, Director
John Hilton, Deputy Director
Wendy Bruski, Statistical Info Assistant
10 W 15th Street, Helena, MT 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov